

**MINUTES OF MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**  
**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**NOVEMBER 10, 2014**  
**6:30 P.M.**

A regular meeting was held by City Council on November 10, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. over which Mayor Bobby L. Davis presided. Council members Michael Baker, Ronald Atkinson, Ralph Atkinson, Odessa Gregg, Emerson Hunt and Joseph Frazier were present. Also present were City Administrator Alan Ammons, City Treasurer Patricia Brown, City Clerk Pam Jones, and City Attorney Kenneth Davis.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order and Councilwoman Gregg gave the opening prayer. Mr. Ammons led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Davis welcomed citizens, guests and the press. (Hometown TV)

Councilman Joseph Frazier made a motion to accept the minutes from the regular meeting on October 3, 2014, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker. Councilwoman Gregg asked that those minutes be amended to say that she had made a personal contribution to the Door of Hope HALLOWfest (which was referenced in the letter from Bishop Michael Blue and read at the last meeting) and Mayor Davis also personally contributed to that event. Motion carried. Councilman Joseph Frazier made a motion to approve the minutes from the special meeting on November 3, 2014, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson; motion carried.

Mayor Bobby L. Davis presented a Resolution to Taylor's Barber Shop for 100 Years in Business in the City of Marion. Mr. Mack McClellan and Mr. Wendell Patterson were present to accept the Resolution, which was read by City Clerk Pam Jones. Mr. McLellan and Mr. Patterson shared some of the history of the barber shop and thanked the Mayor and Council for their recognition of Taylor's Barber Shop.

Patrolman Jonathan Edwards of the Marion Police Department was named October Employee of the Month and presented with a gift certificate by Mayor Davis. Mayor Davis thanked Patrolman Edwards for a job well done and encouraged him to keep up the good work.

Reverend Hemingway was not in attendance to present Youth Day awards.

Recreation Director Ann Jackson and Athletic Director Frank Page presented a proposal for lights at the Green Street Complex. Ms. Jackson announced that in July 2015, Marion has the honor of hosting the Girls' Dixie Youth State Softball Tournaments in 4 divisions, consisting of 8 teams in each division and should draw approximately 2,500 people to Marion. The lights will be approximately \$83,000 and the proposal is included in Council's packets, which also include various ways to help raise money to fund the lighting. Ms. Jackson made the following proposal: registration fees be raised by \$5.00 for both city and county residents, admission to sporting events be \$2.00 for 12 years & over, \$1.00 under 12 years and free under 4 years. There will also be a \$25.00 season ticket pass, which will include 4 tickets. Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson commented that Council should take the Green Street Light proposal under consideration to see what the City can do. Councilman Ralph Atkinson stated that the normal procedure would be to go through the Mayor and Administrator and they make a recommendation to Council where they will get the money to pay for it and how it will be paid for, etc., then we will take it under advisement and move forward. Ms. Jackson commented that this (lights proposal) is time-sensitive and should we not be able to get these lights, we will have to turn down the state championships due to not having facilities. Councilman Ralph Atkinson needs a more definitive plan. Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson commented that Ann has seen more working in other counties and obviously knows more about it than anybody on Council knows about how to come up the funds, but as Councilman Atkinson said, we just don't have money to throw out there. He further commented that Council should take this request under advisement. Mr. Page commented that raising fees and charging entry fees is just the beginning of this. We do need to look into what 4 fields can bring us for marketing to travel ball tournaments, which brings in a lot of revenue to other towns. There is no guarantee we will get these tournaments, but in order to market, we need a product to offer. Mr. Page further commented that If we can get the support of Council, we are willing to work hard to help fund this. Councilman Emerson Hunt agreed that facilities do need upgrading housing everything at Green Street would be ideal and believes they are heading in the right direction, but does want to see more definitive ways of raising money and how we will pursue this, as we do want our city to be competitive with other cities. Mayor Davis thanked Ms. Jackson for the proposal presentation to the Council and hopes that together, we can come up with something that Council will be supportive of. Councilman Joseph Frazier made a motion to allow the Recreation Director and Athletic Director to move forward on raising the fees as presented. Councilman Hunt asked if this motion would also include the new admissions charges, to which Councilman Frazier said his motion would be amended to add the admission charge. Ms. Jackson commented that since basketball registration has already begun, the new fees will not be added to this basketball season, but they

would begin charging admission immediately. Councilman Michael Baker seconded the motion; motion carried.

Mayor Davis introduced our newest police officer, Thomas Moore and welcomed him to the City of Marion. Officer Moore thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity and is excited to be a part of the Marion Police Department.

Mr. Chuck MacNeil from PDRTA was not present.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to give 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading on ***ORDINANCE 14-09, AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE INTERNATIONAL FIRED CODE (IFC)***, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson; motion carried.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR's REPORT**

Mr. Ammons stated that the Tollison and Elementary gyms are 95% complete. Mayor Pro-tem Atkinson commented that he had done a walk-thru and the gym looks nice. Mr. Ammons commented that Council may want to consider changing the name of the Elementary gym; from a contribution, branding, etc. Since that gym is now multi-purpose and will be available for events, Mr. Ammons will bring a proposal to the next meeting for rental fees for the Elementary gym (banquets, meetings, etc.) Mr. Ammons will talk to Tim Harper regarding truck parking at the old Heritage Sportswear Building, which is owned by the County. It is zoned for truck parking, but at the time it was zoned as such, it was related to the industry. We need to get something from the County saying they don't have permission and then we can enforce that. Mayor Davis stated that Council would receive examples of ordinances. There have already been two incidents on Main Street where trucks have caused damage. We may want to consider an ordinance to stop the thru-fare of 18-wheelers coming through town. Regarding the naming of the Elementary Gym, Councilman Joseph Frazier made a motion to move forward with a plan to solicit the name/funds to rename that gym, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker. Councilman Ralph Atkinson has no problem with the concept but would like a more definitive idea of what we would charge, whether it would be eternal, before we ask a family to donate. Mayor Davis is asking for the authority for him and Mr. Ammons to look into this and bring a plan back to Council for their approval. Motion carried.

### **CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE**

Attorney Kenneth Davis had nothing to report at this time.

### **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

Mayor Davis commented that all departmental reports are sent to Council in their packets. Mrs. Mary Eaddy with the Citizen's Advisory stated that there are still some vacancies to be filled. Mr. Denley Caughman with the Senior Council commented that they had a very informative meeting with the 911 coordinator and also there would be no more meetings until January.

### **DISTRICTS AND CITY UPDATES FROM COUJCIL AND MAYOR**

Councilman Michael Baker had no comment at this time.

Councilman Joseph Frazier is concerned that SHE Magazine has moved from Marion to Florence and we are still paying for advertisements and does not see the benefit of it. Who gets the magazine? Does the City get magazines? That is money we could be saving here. Will bring up attorney's bill in Executive Session. Councilman Frazier stated that he had a problem with the Senator; since he has been trying to get a sign at McEachern and Dunlop the Senator was going to meet with someone and call him, but he is getting no response from him. The City gave him \$5,000 and if the Senator can't get two signs down there, we don't need to give him anything. Councilman Frazier further stated that he is very frustrated with this situation.

Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson made a motion to request a plaque in recognition of the Johnakin Middle School Cheerleaders winning the state championship to be presented at the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier; motion carried. Mayor Pro-tem Atkinson commented that he has been getting a lot of complaints from Cherry Street to Oliver Street regarding a lot of foot traffic, bicycles and cars in that area late at night and into the early morning. A report was filed at the Police Department by a resident, who was told by an officer that she was sorry, but he would have to put up with it. Mayor Pro-tem Atkinson further commented that people are tired of putting up with it. Assistant Chief Tennie asked for his name and will personally go see him tomorrow. Mayor Pro-tem Atkinson will get with Mr. Ammons regarding a new street light on Cherry Street and also asked that anyone who sees a street light out, notify the City. Mr. Ammons responded that he had just reported (to Duke Progress) between 40 and 50 street lights that needed repair. Mayor Davis stated that the police department has been instructed to report any streetlights out or

flickering, to Mr. Ammons. If a resident calls in, please give the number on the pole and the closest street address to Mr. Ammons, who has been doing a great job on this. Assistant Chief Tinnie gave his phone number and asked that anyone who had any concerns to call him. Councilman Hunt stated that Assistant Chief Tinnie is very diligent in doing his job. Mayor Davis stated that Wal-Mart extended their thanks and appreciation to the police department for their great support, response time and the way the officers were working with them. Mayor Davis reiterated that residents call Assistant Chief Tinnie, who again gave his phone number, if they had any issues or concerns.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson had no comment at this time.

Councilwoman Odessa Gregg thanked Assistant Chief Tinnie for his assistance on Saturday night with a problem at her house. She asked that he also extend her thanks Officer Ray for his help. Councilwoman Gregg thanked the Veteran's for their service and the citizen for their wonderful response to the Veteran's Program at the Memorial Triangle on Friday and at the parade and luncheon at Marion High School on Saturday. Councilwoman Gregg thanked Mayor Bo McMillan and Mayor Barbara Hopkins for attending the events and also to Rev. Larry Williams for the gift bags for the veterans. She was very pleased with the response received from the community at the Veteran's parade on Saturday and also pleased by the attendance of Senator Kent Williams and Representative Wayne George. One of Councilwoman Gregg's concerns is the number of homeless people in Marion County and has in mind a plan to help those citizens. She appreciates the concerns of the citizens of Marion. Councilwoman Gregg sees Marion going forward and sees an improvement and wants future generations to continue to build on what has already been invested in Marion. Councilwoman Gregg stated that all of us are equal, so let us all be concerned about each other.

Councilman Emerson Hunt had no comment at this time.

Councilman Frazier commended the Police Department on the dynamic job they are doing bringing in more speeders and appreciates the revenue coming in from them.

Mayor Bobby L. Davis thanked everyone who participated in and attended the Veteran's program on Friday, including Senator Kent Williams, General Frank Jones, Senator Tim Scott's office, and Major Edward Holmes. We should be supportive in every way and thank those veterans and their families who sacrificed so much. The City's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Veteran's program was to show our

appreciation for our veterans and we plan to continue next year. The veterans' events of Friday and Saturday were very diverse and it is all about bringing people together. Mayor Davis expressed his thanks to all veterans for they are the reason we are able to do what we do and have what we have. The red carpet event will be held on November 22<sup>nd</sup> (at the newly renovated Elementary gym) and prior to us embarking on any activities there, the Mayor would like to give God the thanks for the wonderful building and would like to have a word of dedication and prayer prior to going into the gym. The Chamber's ribbon cutting can be done at that time, as well. He hopes the Arts Council and others will go along with that, as it is our building and we should be able to do that in there is no objection. Councilman Joseph Frazier made a motion with the Mayor's suggestion regarding the dedication of the Elementary gym prior to entering the building, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker. Attorney Davis suggested that the dedication be non-sectarian that doesn't favor any religion, but you can say God. The motion carried. Councilman Frazier would like to know ahead of time (before December 6) if the City will have a float in the Christmas parade. Mayor Davis responded that we would move forward with the City float for the Christmas paraded and would use Hospitality funds if necessary. Mr. Morris Ward will be leading the Christmas program on Sunday and is working with the schools to have the kids singing on the courthouse steps.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilman Joseph Frazier made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss the attorney's fees and legal update or comments from the attorney, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker; motion carried.

Upon returning from Executive Session, Mayor Davis stated that no action had been taken. Councilman Joseph Frazier made a motion to enter open session, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker; motion carried.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson; motion carried.

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Mayor Bobby L. Davis

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City Clerk Pam Jones

Taped November 10, 2014